

S/N 10/798,149
Reply to Office Action of October 6, 2006

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Amendments to the claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A nickel metal hydride storage battery, comprising:
a battery case; and
a group of electrode plates arranged in the battery case, the electrode plates including a positive electrode plate comprising nickel hydroxide,
wherein the battery case comprises a battery case main body having a hole and a lid for closing the hole;
the battery case comprises a first portion made of a metal or a laminate of a metal and a resin, and a second portion made of a resin without metal present; and
an area of the first portion is 20 % or more and 90 % or less with respect to the entire battery case.
2. (Previously Presented) The nickel metal hydride storage battery according to claim 1, wherein the battery case main body comprises a resin case and a multilayered film formed on a part of the surface of the resin case; the multilayered film comprises a metal layer and two resin layers arranged in a manner in which the metal layer is interposed between the two resin layers; and a portion on which the multilayered film is formed is the first portion.
3. (Original) The nickel metal hydride storage battery according to claim 1, wherein the average thickness of the second portion is 0.7 mm or more and 2.5 mm or less.
4. (Original) The nickel metal hydride storage battery according to claim 1, wherein the hydrogen permeability coefficient at 40 °C of the resin forming the second portion is 2×10^{-15} mol·m/m²·sec·Pa or more and 1×10^{-14} mol·m/m²·sec·Pa or less.

S/N 10798,149

Reply to Office Action of October 6, 2006

5. (Original) The nickel hydride storage battery according to claim 1, wherein the average value of the hydrogen permeability at 40 °C of the second portion is $1.4 \times 10^{-18} \text{ mol} \cdot \text{m} / \text{m}^2 \cdot \text{sec} \cdot \text{Pa}$ or more and $2.5 \times 10^{-17} \text{ mol} \cdot \text{m} / \text{m}^2 \cdot \text{sec} \cdot \text{Pa}$ or less.
6. (Original) The nickel metal hydride storage battery according to claim 1, wherein the group of electrode plates comprise a negative electrode comprising a hydrogen absorbing alloy as a main component; and the hydrogen absorbing has an equilibrium hydrogen desorption pressure at 45 °C of 0.02 MPa or more and 0.1 MPa or less.
7. (Original) The nickel metal hydride storage battery according to claim 1, wherein the second portion comprises a polymer alloy of polypropylene and polyphenylene ether.
8. (Original) The nickel metal hydride storage battery according to claim 1, wherein the area of the first portion is 40 % or more and 80% or less with respect to the area of the entire battery case.
9. (Original) The nickel metal hydride storage battery according to claim 8, wherein the area of the first portion is 50 % or more and 70 % or less with respect to the area of the entire battery case.
10. (Original) The nickel metal hydride storage battery according to claim 1, wherein the entire battery case main body is the first portion and the lid is the second portion.
11. (Original) The nickel metal hydride storage battery according to claim 1, wherein the battery case main body is formed of a Ni-plated steel sheet.
12. (Original) The nickel metal hydride storage battery according to claim 1, wherein the capacity of the nickel metal hydride storage battery is in the range from 4 Ah to 10 Ah.

S/N 10/798,149

Reply to Office Action of October 6, 2006

13. (Original) The nickel metal hydride storage battery according to claim 1, wherein the area per cell of the nickel metal hydride storage battery is in the range from 100 cm^2 to 300 cm^2 .